Not Just Research Papers: Collection Development at Southern New Hampshire University

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The IR at SNHU

Institutional repositories are relatively well established in major research universities throughout the world. However, there are opportunities for further development in non-research based institutions that limit themselves to granting master’s and baccalaureate degrees. Xia and Opperman’s study (2009) show that among these institutions, student theses and archives/special collections comprise more than half of institutional repository collections.

Southern New Hampshire University currently offers two doctoral programs and several master’s degree programs in addition to its traditional undergraduate curriculum. Because the emphasis at SNHU is on teaching and not research, the institution is similar to those included in Xia and Opperman’s study. While collections of theses and dissertations as well as faculty publications have been developed, the potential for these collections are relatively small. The Shapiro Library is making an effort to also collect materials appropriate for teaching and other university needs, providing interesting new examples of resources that can be included in IR collections.

Citation

U.S. Census Bureau Current Industrial Reports

The Current Industrial Report program provides measures of industrial activity in the U.S. The data has been used by students for many years for coursework in the SNHU Marketing program. Specifically, the students are asked to research the past 15 years’ worth of data in order to learn market analysis and forecasting.

While the past two years of data is freely available on the U.S. Census Bureau website, in the past the library paid for the STAT-USA database to access the older reports. Unfortunately, that database closed down in September 2010.

Before the database closed, the Shapiro Library collected the data and made it available in the SNHU Academic Archive. Statistics consistently reflect access from not just students, but countries such as Great Britain, Germany, and Colombia.

McIninch Gallery permanent collection

SNHU’s McIninch Gallery presents a wide range of exhibits each year, but there is also a little-known, little-used permanent collection of approximately 100 works. Most of these works are either in storage, or on limited display in administrative offices and other institutional spaces. Even so, artwork is purchased in an effort to support the university’s arts curricula.

By making these visual resources available in the Academic Archive, faculty and other outside educators have a much greater opportunity to use these works as teaching tools in their classes.

The visual resources communities use the Preview feature in DSpace 1.5 to provide an instant view of the visual resource in the item record.

University records

Until now, SNHU has not had a safe archive for records such as minutes from Faculty Senate meetings, accreditation visit records, and so on. The SNHU Academic Archive was identified by the Faculty Senate as a safe resource to house these records.

Student work in the graphic arts

Each year, the on-campus gallery highlights outstanding student work in the graphic design program. The exhibits provides numerous examples of the range of disciplines explored.